

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claim 141 as follows:

141. (Amended): A method for specifying, capturing, locating, extracting and storing data from a network, comprising: specifying at least one target datum accessible from a network location addressable by a network address; generating one or more sets of input parameters, wherein said "input parameters" normally refers to hypertext markup language (HTML) or extensible markup language (XML) <INPUT> elements and <FORM method="get"> or <FORM method="post"> elements, or to variables within <SCRIPT> elements, allowing capture of one or more sets of network data from said network location; capturing one or more sets of said network data from said network location at specified dates and times; locating at least one said target datum in variable format sets of said network data, wherein said "variable format" normally refers to possible insertions or deletions of HTML or XML elements as well as variable text strings; extracting at least one said target datum from said variable format sets of said network data; and storing at least one said target datum in a file, a database, or any storage medium.

Please amend claim 145 as follows:

145. (Amended) The method of claim 141, wherein said specifying at least one target datum further comprises setting up to perform substitution of said input parameters, wherein said "substitution" normally refers to the creation of sets of values for <INPUT> elements or <SCRIPT> variables, wherein said setting up to perform said substitution of said input parameters includes: parsing URL strings to locate and identify said input parameter names and types; locating and extracting <INPUT> elements from HTML or XML data; specifying said input parameter types and said input parameter values; and storing the specifications of said input parameters in a file, a database, or any storage medium.

Please amend claim 148 as follows:

148. (Amended) The method of claim 141, wherein said specifying at least one target datum further comprises setting up to perform dynamic document object model (DOM) tree matching, wherein said setting up to perform dynamic DOM tree matching includes: capturing one or more sets of said network data from said network location; extracting HTML or XML elements from said network data; generating a reduced DOM template of said network data using extracted HTML or XML elements, wherein said “reduced” normally refers to the removal text strings or other data contained within said network data that may change each time said network data is captured from said network location; and storing said reduced DOM template in a file, a database, or any storage medium.

Please amend claim 149 as follows:

149. (Amended) The method of claim 141, wherein said specifying at least one target datum further comprises setting up to perform dynamic tag string matching, wherein said setting up to perform dynamic tag string matching includes: capturing one or more sets of said network data from said network location; extracting HTML or XML elements from said network data; generating a reduced tag string template of said network data using extracted HTML or XML elements, wherein said “reduced” normally refers to the removal text strings or other data contained within said network data that may change each time said network data is captured from said network location; and storing said reduced tag string template in a file, a database, or any storage medium.

Please amend claim 150 as follows:

150. (Amended) The method of claim 141, wherein said capturing from said network location further comprises performing said substitution of said input parameters to generate one or more sets of said input parameters; repeatedly capturing from said network location for each set of said

input parameters, where each set of said input parameters provides different target data from said network location.

Please amend claim 151 as follows:

151. (Amended) The method of claim 150, wherein said performing said substitution of said input parameters further comprises said substitution of one or more nested said input parameters, wherein said “nested” has a similar meaning as in “nested FOR loops” such that variables within inner FOR loops run through their entire range of values for every value of a variable in an outer FOR loop, wherein said substitution of one or more said nested said input parameters includes generating one or more sets of said input parameters, where each of one or more sets of said input parameters provides different target data from said network location.

Please amend claim 152 as follows:

152. (Amended) The method of claim 141, wherein said at least one target datum is extracted from said variable format said network data using: character sequence bounding; or dynamic DOM tree matching, wherein said dynamic DOM tree matching includes creating a said reduced DOM tree representation from said network data, comparing said reduced DOM tree representation with previously stored said reduced DOM tree template to identify most probable location within said network data of said target datum, and extracting said target datum from said most probable location within said network data; or dynamic tag string matching, wherein said dynamic tag string matching includes creating a said reduced tag string representation from said network data, comparing said reduced tag string representation with previously stored said reduced tag string template to identify most probable location within said network data of said target datum, and extracting said target datum from said most probable location within said network data.

Please amend claim 153 as follows:

153. (Amended) The method of claim 152, wherein said dynamic tag string matching or said dynamic DOM tree matching further comprises using invariant reference data to increase robustness of location and extraction of said at least one target datum, wherein said “invariant reference data” normally refers to text strings or other data contained within said network data that does not change each time said network data is captured from said network location.

Please amend claim 154 as follows:

154. (Amended) The method of claim 141, wherein said extracting said at least one target datum further comprises: locating and extracting possible text blocks from unconstrained color images; performing character recognition on possible text blocks; filtering the recognized text; and storing the filtered text in a file, a database, or any storage medium.

Please amend claim 156 as follows:

156. (Amended) A method for capturing and storing data from a network, comprising: specifying at least one target datum accessible from a page of an existing web browser; generating one or more sets of input parameters, wherein said “input parameters” normally refers to hypertext markup language (HTML) or extensible markup language (XML) <INPUT> elements and <FORM method="get"> or <FORM method="post"> elements, or to variables within <SCRIPT> elements; capturing page data from said page at specified dates and times; locating said at least one target datum in variable format said page data, wherein said “variable format” normally refers to possible insertions or deletions of HTML or XML elements as well as variable text strings; extracting said at least one target datum from said page data; and storing said at least one target datum extracted from said web browser page in a file, a database, or any storage medium.

Appl. No. 09/553,669
Amdt. Dated February 10, 2004
Reply to Office action of January 23, 2004

Please amend claim 158 as follows:

158. (Amended) The method of claim 156, wherein said specifying said at least one target datum includes graphically highlighting and isolating HTML or XML elements corresponding to said at least one target datum, wherein said "graphically highlighting and isolating" normally refers to selection of any of the HTML or XML elements contained within said page data, not just to hyperlinks or text strings which may be selected with ordinary web browsers, and said graphically highlighting and isolating HTML or XML elements includes using a mouse, joystick, trackball, or any pointing device.

Please cancel claims 160 – 163.